that with some authority. The only conditions under which scraping of pure salt takes place are that the density of the brine should be within certain prescribed limits at the time of scraping. That is all. If this state of affairs is adhered to, there is no impediment to salt being scraped at any time.

Sir, Mr. Nadar levelled the charge against the authorities of the Excise Department that they were allowing scraping in the morning and in evening, and that it was wrong on their part to allow that. Sir, this can be treated as a charge against the Excise authorities only if they allow any violation of the salt rules. So far as I am aware, there is no rule which prohibits the scraping of salt in morning and evening. The rules are absolutely silent about the time of scraping. There is nothing to warrant the theory that it is unscientific to scrape salt in the morning or in the evening.

In regard to the other statements made by Mr. Nadar, and his theory I cannot accept either the one or the other.

I oppose the motion.

MR. M. P. JOSEPH (*Excise Commissioner*): Sir, Mr. Narayanaperumal Nadar is not a licensee nor has he seen the working of a factory.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR: I challenge that statement, Sir. I have seen the working of almost all the factories in South Travancore.

MR. M. P. JOSEPH: I made the statement because he would not be allowed to see a factory working, without the permission of the Excise Officers.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR: With the permission of the Excise Inspector, I have seen all these factories.

MR. M. P. JOSEPH: Sir, the Excise Commissioner is supervising the manufacture of salt in the State. He has gone to every one of them and has watched the scraping of salt. Therefore his statement is entitled to greater weight than that of Mr. Narayanaperumal Nadar, although he belongs to the Agastisvaram taluk.

Sir, the manufacture of salt is governed by certain rules. None of those rules provides any time limit within which alone scraping shall be done. It is left to the licensee to scrape salt in any part of the day, or throughout the day. The only point to be looked into is that the salt scraped should be free from impurities like magnesium chloride, magnesium sulphate and potassium chloride; sodium chloride should be the main ingredient in the salt scraped. That can be achieved by scraping when the density of the brine is between 25 degrees and 30 degrees. For that there is provision in the rules.

Sir, Mr. Narayanaperumal Nadar referred to some old books on salt manufacture which says that salt should be scraped only at noon, and that if it is scraped in the forenoon and afternoon, there would be impurities like magnesium and potassium salts. I may inform my

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[Mr. M. P. Joseph.]

esteemed friend that that view is not correct. I am sure my statement will be borne out by some of the licensees present here, I mean Messrs. T. C. Kesava Pillai and Mr. Chattanatha Karayalar.

The motion was put and declared lost.

Motion 76.

MR. K. R. NARAYANAN : സർ, ഉപ്പു വ്യവസായം നാഷണലൈസു ചെയ്യണമെന്നുള്ള ഈ ഉപക്ഷേപം ഞാൻ അവതരിപ്പിക്കുന്നു. വെള്ളം പോലെതന്നെ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു ആവശ്യമുള്ളതും കിട്ടേണ്ടതുമാണ് ഉപ്പെന്നു പ്രത്യേകം പറയേണ്ടല്ലോ. ഇവിടത്തെ ഉപ്പുവ്യവസായം ഗവണ്മെൻറു ഏറ്റെടുത്തു ഗവണ്മെൻറിനേറെയും ജനങ്ങളുടേയും മദ്ധ്യേനിന്നു ലാഭം എടുക്കുന്ന കൺട്രാക്റ്റർമാരിൽനിന്നും സാധുക്കളെ രക്ഷിക്കേണ്ടതു അത്യാവശ്യമാകുന്നു. ആദായകരമായ വ്യവസായങ്ങൾ ഏതാനംവ്യക്തികൾക്കു കുത്തകയായികൊടുത്തു് അവക്കു ആദായമുണ്ടാകുന്നതിനായി ഗവണ്മെൻറു സൌകര്യമുണ്ടാക്കുന്നതു് പരിഷ്കൃതമല്ല. ആധുനിക സാമ്പത്തികശാസ്ത്രത്തിനുതന്നെ അതു എതിരാകുന്നു. ഇപ്പോൾ ഗവണ്മെൻറിൻറെയും ജനങ്ങളുടെയും മദ്ധ്യത്തിൽനിന്നുകൊണ്ടു് കൺട്രാക്ടർമാർ അവരുടെ സർവ്വവിധമായ ആദായവും എടുത്തതിനുശേഷം ഇടങ്ങഴി ഉപ്പു് രണ്ടോ മൂന്നോ ചക്രത്തിനു വിൽക്കുന്നു. ഇവരുടെ ആദായം വളരെ ഭീമമാണു്. ഈ കൺട്രാക്ടർമാരുടെ ആദായം വേണ്ടെന്നുവയ്ക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ ഒന്നരയോ ഒന്നേകാലോ ചക്രത്തിനു ഒരുപക്ഷേ സാധുക്കൾക്കു ഇടങ്ങഴി ഉപ്പു കിട്ടിയെന്നുവരാം. സാധുക്കൾക്കു കുറഞ്ഞ വിലക്കു ഉപ്പുകിട്ടുന്നതിനുവേണ്ടിയും, ഗവണ്മെൻറു ഉപ്പുവ്യവസായം ഏറ്റെടുത്താൽ നല്ല ഉപ്പു കിട്ടുമെന്നു പ്രതീക്ഷിക്കാൻ അവകാശമുള്ളതുകൊണ്ടും ഉപ്പുവ്യവസായത്തിൽ കൺട്രാക്ടർമാർ എടുക്കുന്ന ആദായം ഗവണ്മെൻറിനുകിട്ടിയാൽ ആ ആദായം മറുപ്രകാരത്തിൽ പൊതുജനോപകാരപ്രദമായവിധത്തിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനുചെലവാക്കാമല്ലോ എന്നുകരുതിയും ഞാൻ ഈ ഉപക്ഷേപം അവതരിപ്പിക്കുന്നു. ഉപ്പുവ്യവസായം ഇന്നു ആരുടെ കൈവശമിരിക്കുന്നുവെന്നുള്ളതു നോക്കാതെ നാഷണലൈസ് ചെയ്യുന്നതിൻറെ തത്വംമാത്രംനോക്കി സഭ അംഗീകരിക്കണമെന്നുള്ള അഭ്യർത്ഥനയോടുകൂടി ഈ ഉപക്ഷേപം അവതരിപ്പിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

MR. M. P. JOSEPH : Sir, the very same subject was brought forward in this House last year, and was discussed threadbare. My friend Mr. Narayanan also took part in that debate.

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Sir, I may inform my friend that, before 1080, salt manufacture was the monopoly of the Government.

Till 1080, we had the monopoly system; there were factories even in Central Travancore. But our total output of salt was not enough for local consumption so that large quantities had to be imported from Bombay and Tuticorin at very high prices. The salt manufactured was also of inferior quality. That was why the monopoly system was given up and licenses were begun to be issued for the manufacture of salt. Now we have several factories working in the country. Our total output at present is between 15 and 18 lakhs of maunds of salt per annum. There is actual over-production.

Sir, Mr. Narayanan was saying that the quality of salt would improve if the Government were to take up the manufacture. I do not subscribe to that proposition. I have visited all the factories in the State, and can boldly say that the salt produced in some of our factories, especially the Kovalam Factory in Cape Comorin, the S. S. Allom and the Avathanikal Allom, can compare very favourably with any salt imported from outside; in its percentage of sodium chloride it compares very favourably with Bombay salt. I cannot understand my friend's argument that, if the Government take up this industry, the quality would improve. There is keen competition between the various licensees to produce the best salt possible. If there is no competition, there will be no incentive to improve the quality. At present, the quality of salt in some of the factories, especially the one at Kovalam, is so good that there is a rush of merchants to get that salt. In fact one of the merchants came to me and requested me to persuade the licensee at Kovalam to give him some of the Kovalam salt for sale. That is the position to-day.

The House adjourned at 5-2 P. M.

A. GUNAMONY,

Secretary to the Sri Mulam Assembly.

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Annexure.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE, HELD ON THURSDAY, THE 6TH JULY 1939/22ND MITHUNAM 1114.

The third meeting of the Standing Finance Committee of the Sri Chitra State Council and the Sri Mulam Assembly was held at 11 A. M. on Thursday, the 6th July, 1939/22nd Mithunam 1114, in the Dewan's room, Public Offices. Sachivottama Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, K. C, I. E., Dewan, presided.

The following members were present :—

(1) A. Easwara Pillai Esq., B. A., B. L., Member, Sri Chitra State Council.

(2) M. Sivathanu Pillai Esq., Member Sri Mulam Assemby.

(3) P. Sivarama Pillai Esq., M. A., LL. B., Member, Sri Mulam Assembly.

(4) M. K. Nilakanta Aiyar Esq., B. A., B. L., Chief Secretary to Government.

(5) M. Govinda Pillai Esq., B. A., Einancial Secretary to Government.

The new proposals of the various departments for the year 1115 M. E. were taken up for scrutiny.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

1. *General and Revenue Secretariat.* The Committee allowed the provision of Rs. 535 for the continuance of a clerk on Rs. 40-70 on a temporary basis in the General Section of the Secretariat for dealing with the papers relating to the Pulbic Service department.

2. A sum of Rs. 240 for an additional chauffeur at Bhaktivilas on Rs. 20-25 was allowed to be provided for in the budget.

3. The proposed provision of Rs. 231 for the continuance of the temporary clerk-typist in the Huzur Central Records on Rs. 20-1-25 was passed.

4. The provision of Rs. 828 for the continuance of three Malayalam typists on Rs. 20-1-25 was approved by the Committee.

5. A sum of Rs. 1,195 for payment of honorarium to the Honorary Director of the Huzur Central Records from the 2nd Vrischikam 1115 till the close of the year was allowed to stand.

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6 *Continuance of the temporary staff of the Huzur Central Records and the Mathilakam.* Funds to the extent of Rs. 11,808 for the continuance of the following temporary staff were passed by the Committee :—

Staff for attending to the work in the Mathilakam.

1 clerk on Rs. 40-70 per mensem.
5 clerks on Rs. 25-40 each per mensem.
15 scribes on Rs. 20-25 do.
4 peons on Rs. 9-11 do.

Additional staff for attending to the work in the Huzur Central Records.

1 clerk on Rs. 40-70 per mensem.
2 clerks on Rs. 25-40 each per mensem.
10 scribes on Rs. 20-25 do.
2 peons on Rs. 9-11 do.

7. A provision of Rs. 132 for the appointment of a temporary mochee in the Huzur Central Records was next agreed to.

8. *Arrangement for the Census of 1941.* The Committee agreed to a lump sum provision of Rs. 3,500 for this purpose being made in the budget.

Financial Secretariat and Accountant General's Office.

The Committee considered the following provisions one after another and passed them :—

9. Rs. 440 for the continuance of the additional clerk on a temporary basis in the Financial Secretariat.

10. Rs. 590 for the continuance of the clerk attending to railway work on a permanent basis in the Financial Secretariat.

11. Rs. 220 for the appointment of a temporary clerk-typist on Rs. 20-1-25 in the Electrical Audit Section of the Accountant General's Office, for one year, discontinuing the allowance of Rs. 5 now allowed to the Attender of the Section for typing work.

12. Rs. 341 for the continuance of the temporary staff, *viz.*, a clerk-typist and a mochee, in the Education Audit Section of the Accountant General's Office.

13. Rs. 286 for the continuance of the temporary staff, *viz.*, an Attender and a mochee, working in the Provident Fund Section of the Accountant General's Office.

14. Rs. 165 for the continuance of the temporary Attender engaged in the filing of Anchal Hundi audited vouchers in the Accountant General's Office.

15. Rs. 22 for the revision of the scale of pay of the shroff in the Pre-audit branch of the Accountant General's Office after enhancing the security attached to that post.

16. Rs. 150 for the appointment of a temporary additional hand in the Accountant General's Office for the publication of the next edition of the History of Services of the Gazetted Officers of the State.

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